

NEW "ROOM" SHOW-CASES IN QUEENSLAND MUSEUM.

(Plates I-IV.)

THE ground-floor attractions of the Queensland Museum have been greatly increased by the opening of four large room-cases, each practically 12 feet square. These were formed by the casing-in of alcoves, the cost of construction thus being small when compared with the results obtained. Whilst arranging these cases, precedence was given to the more characteristic Australian animals. In the one (*see* Plate I) adjoining the Bird Court, a number of Emus, with young and eggs, are appropriately grouped in plain country representing the habitat in which they were secured. Large head and side labels give both scientific and popular information as to the classification and habits of these birds.

Representatives of the genus *Macropus* are given a natural setting—although unavoidably crowded—around a waterhole in the case illustrated by Plate II. The artist-taxidermist (Mr. A. Alder) has skilfully introduced stony country, and this fades so imperceptibly into the background that it is difficult to say which stones belong to the canvas painting. A key to the species is given by means of a diagram, with circles placed to correspond with the position of different animals.

Australian *Phalangeridae* form the principal objects of the third case (Plate III). A scrub scene occupies the background, and in the distance the artist has worked in the outlines of a Queensland mountain. Included here are the beautiful North Queensland Opossums (*Dactylopsila trivirgata*, *Pseudochirus archeri*, and *P. herbertensis*). This case is one of the most striking objects in the Museum.

In the fourth case (Plate IV), Polyprotodont specimens have been introduced, among them being the Tasmanian "Devil," the Marsupial Wolf, Native Cats or Dasyures, and the Bandicoots. Wombats are also shown, these being in

characteristic association with a burrow. In this, as in the preceding case, it has not been possible to adhere strictly to close classification, and thus representatives of more than one family appear together. With the accommodation at present available, a restricted group system would have prevented the exhibition of many specimens of great interest. In order to simulate as nearly as possible a natural environment, several other specimens quite outside the Marsupialia, such as butterflies, a bird, a snake and a lizard, appear as in their usual condition. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to avoid using a small proportion of old and imperfect material in these cases, but as time goes on it is anticipated that these will be replaced by new specimens. Side labels giving descriptive and systematic information have been introduced on a generous scale. At a distance of 2 feet, a brass bar is placed in front of each case, and the glass fronts are thus protected.—H.A.L.